

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 6-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-7, and 9 stand rejected and claims 2 and 8 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 10-24, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 8. By this Amendment, claims 2-4 and 6-9 have been amended and claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 1, 3-7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Naka. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 5 without prejudice thereby rendering rejection of these claims moot. Further, claims 2 and all of the remaining claims explicitly recite that the address pointer table has a first area for storing an entry address indicating a location of a piece of data in the IP flow table and a secondary area for storing one of a next block address and a bottom indicating flag.

These features are not present in either Nakamura or Naka. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: March 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

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